

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
Fiscal Year 2003-2007  
Revised 11/04

**Vision**

To lead Arizona and the nation in protecting the environment and improving the quality of life for the people of our state.

**Mission**

To protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona.

**Director's Office Mission**

Provide executive leadership to the agency to ensure coordination and consistency and promote effectiveness and efficiency of agency actions.

**Air Quality Division Mission**

Protect and enhance public health and welfare and the environment by controlling present and future sources of air pollution.

**Tank Programs Division Mission**

Protect and enhance public health and the environment by preventing regulated substance releases and reducing the risk associated with contaminated sites.

**Waste Programs Division Mission**

Protect and enhance public health and the environment by reducing the risk associated with waste management, contaminated sites and regulated substances.

**Water Quality Division Mission**

Protect and enhance public health and the environment by ensuring safe drinking water and reducing the impact of pollutants discharged to surface and ground water.

**Administrative Services Division Mission**

Provide efficient and effective administration and services in support of the Department's mission, programs and personnel.

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**Agency Description**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality protects public health and the environment by establishing and ensuring compliance with standards of quality for Arizona's air, land and water; advancing public policy; and encouraging participation through statewide outreach.

**Principles/Values**

1. We advocate for Arizona's environment.
2. We adhere to the highest standards of technical professionalism.
3. We commit to the highest standards of ethical behavior.
4. We foster relationships built on respect, courtesy and service.
5. We value creativity, innovation and performance.
6. We turn challenges into opportunities.
7. We value our employees and work as a team.

**Strategic Issues**

**1. To protect and enhance public health and the environment.**

The Department will protect public health and the environment through a wide range of programs that reduce risks associated with exposure to environmental contamination, air pollution and water pollution, and through a variety of public education and outreach programs.

The Department will enhance public health and the environment by assessing environmental conditions in our state and their potential impact to public health, and developing integrated approaches that balance environmental concerns with the state's rapid growth and economic development needs. The Department will lead efforts to respond to emerging environmental issues and pollutants and develop strategic partnerships to promote consensus on innovative solutions to Arizona's environmental challenges.

**2. Public education, involvement and outreach.**

The Department recognizes the inherent value of working with coalitions and partners to achieve a sustainable economy and a high quality environment for Arizona citizens.

To that end, the Department is committed to developing and strengthening relationships at all levels with federal, state and local officials as well as members of the business community, trade associations, non-profit organizations, environmental groups and universities to develop collaborative, science-based solutions to the many complex environmental challenges facing our state.

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The Department is committed to openness, honesty and transparency among its employees and with members of the public and communities affected by the Department's decisions.

**3. Children's Environmental Health**

The Department will provide focus and leadership on children's environmental health issues. In partnership with the Department of Health Services, medical and research communities as well as non-profit groups, the Department will coordinate efforts to assess and reduce exposure to environmental contamination and pollution that affects the health of Arizona children.

The Department will lead efforts to educate the public about threats posed to children by exposure to environmental contamination and promote ways to lessen exposure to those risks.

**4. Professional, efficient service to Arizona**

The Department is committed to developing a motivated, well-trained staff supported by efficient business processes that serve the needs of Arizona citizens and businesses.

The Department will leverage training opportunities provided by Arizona Government University, in-house training resources and other agencies to develop cost-effective career training programs that support its goals and objectives.

The Department will maximize the use of technology to integrate and improve its services statewide with internal and external customers.

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**Agency Goals**

Goal #1: Improve the Quality of Arizona's air, land and water.

- a. Prevent unhealthful levels of air contaminants and reduce the impacts of air pollution on the environment.
- b. Reduce the risk associated with waste management and contaminated sites.
- c. Reduce pollutant loading to surface water and groundwater.
- d. Ensure safe drinking water.

Goal #2: Enhance relationships with the public, regulated community and agency partners.

- a. Engage the broadest spectrum of stakeholders to promote environmental stewardship.
- b. Proactively foster strategic partnerships.
- c. Forge lasting relationships with stakeholders.

Goal #3: Provide leadership on children's environmental health

- a. Integrate children's environmental health into ADEQ programs.
- b. Work effectively with federal, state, local and community agencies and individuals to protect and promote children's environmental health.
- c. Provide leadership relating to children's environmental health issues along the Arizona-Mexico border.
- d. Increase public education and awareness of children's environmental health issues.

Goal #4: Provide value to all Arizona

- a. Improve business processes to address the needs of ADEQ employees and the residents of Arizona.
- b. Provide professional development for employees.
- c. Maximize "E-government" opportunities to enhance customer service and improve access to information.
- d. Clearly define roles, responsibilities, and authorities for Regional Offices to provide better service.